

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dishonesty that is in danger of becoming common in the major media. The lack of accountability that flows from the consolidation of ownership, coupled with a distinct lack of ethics, places our democracy in jeopardy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when unethical companies monopolize major portions of the airwaves, we get a distorted view of the news. People turn to anything and anyone that promises if not objectivity, at least honesty. The bottom line is the only line in too many cases, and the price is our democracy. We want to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I personally oppose the license renewal of any of Sinclair's affiliates, and ask that you place my opposition on file.

Thank you.